
Family Guide

Explore Arms and Armor
Fierce or Fancy?



THE
MET

Discover fierce and fancy works of art in The Met's Arms and Armor galleries. Are they for battle or just for show? For a soldier or for a king?

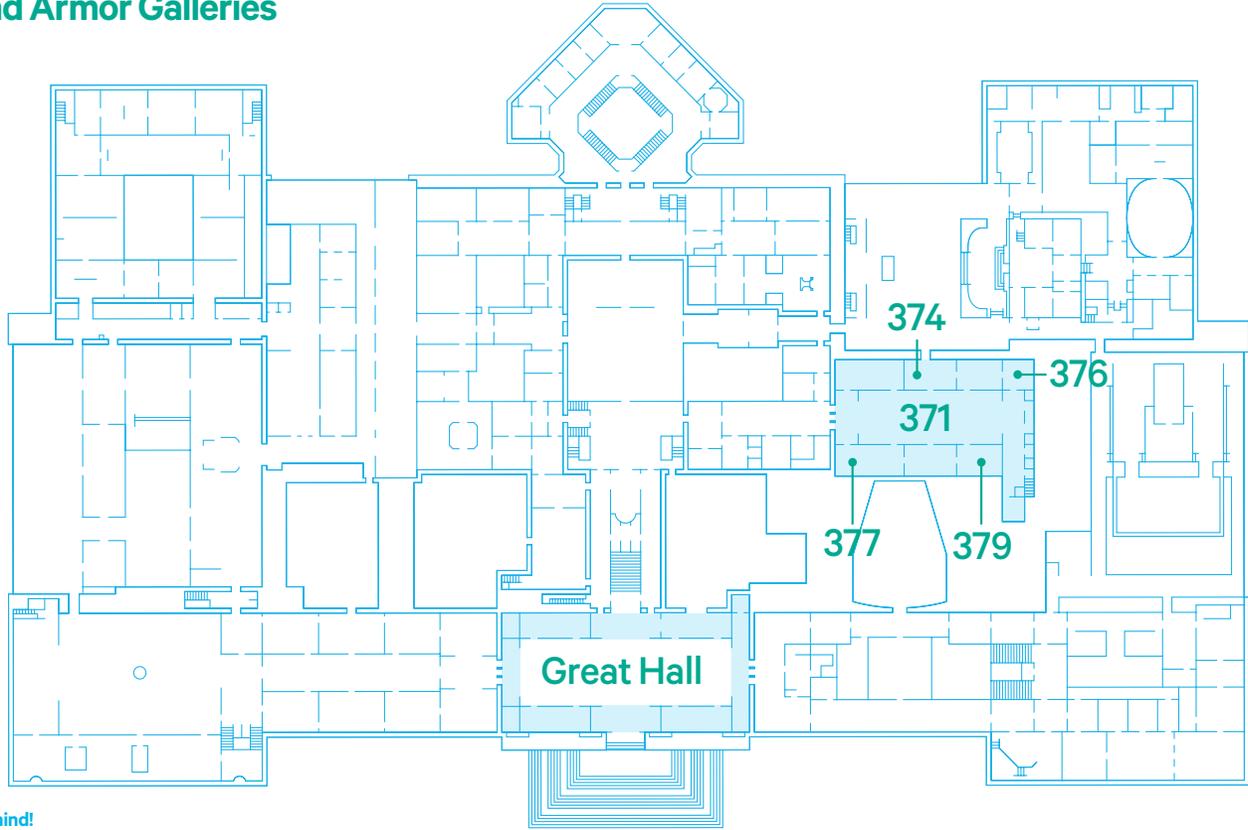
Use the cards in this guide to find the art. Turn the cards over for fun facts and activities.

This map shows the countries represented by the works of art in this guide.



Arms and Armor Galleries

Floor 1



Please keep in mind!

Sometimes we have to move works of art or even close galleries to renovate them or prepare for exhibitions. When in doubt, ask a guard for help!

Fit for a King



Gallery 374
Ronald S. Lauder Gallery

Fit for a Prince



Gallery 376
Russell B. Aitken Galleries

Fit for a Prince

Look

Over three hundred years ago, a five-year-old prince named Luis dressed up in this armor to participate in royal parades. It was probably a gift from his great-grandfather, the king of France. It's decorated with the family's heraldic symbols—find a lion, a castle, and a flowerlike design called a fleur-de-lis [flur-deh-LEE]. The fleur-de-lis is a symbol of France, while the castle and lion symbolized Castile and León, kingdoms in Spain over which Luis would rule when he was old enough.

Imagine

What would it be like to move, play, and run around in an outfit made of steel?

Draw

Create your own heraldic symbol to represent your family or heritage. Include a letter, color, animal, or picture that shows others what is important to you.



Fit for a King

Look

Imagine saluting Henry II, King of France, in this suit of armor as he passed by in a parade. He wore this fancy and over-the-top armor only on special occasions. Take a closer look to find leaves and vines, people and gods, and mythological creatures. Follow the curving lines of the leafy branches with your eyes, wherever they lead you. Did you get lost in the forest? Look around the galleries and find other suits of armor that feature plants, vines, or animals.

Write

Choose a scene on the armor and write a short story about what you see. What might the characters say to each other?

Man of Steel



Gallery 371
Emma and Georgina Bloomberg
Arms and Armor Court

Not Your Average T-Shirt



Gallery 371
Emma and Georgina Bloomberg
Arms and Armor Court

Not Your Average T-Shirt

Look

Though it has the shape of a regular T-shirt, at 23 pounds this Indian armor actually weighs more than a suitcase full of T-shirts. It's loaded with luck! Two gold plates covered with prayers protect the chest. They are held together by buckles shaped like fish, believed to bring good fortune. This extravagant armor likely belonged to the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. Look elsewhere in the gallery for another shirt made of mail and decorated with beautiful writing. How are these two shirts the same or different?

Imagine

What would you write on a shirt meant to protect you?

Did You Know?

This armor is made of mail, small metal rings that link together. Each ring is stamped on one side with several of the 99 Arabic names of God to protect the wearer.

Man of Steel

Look

Back-to-back letter Es appear all over this armor—how many can you find? They stand for Queen Elizabeth I of England. This 60-pound armor was specially made for George Clifford, an English knight. He wore it when he was appointed Queen's Champion, an important position at the royal court.

Did You Know?

By George, the gloves (gauntlets) are mismatched! The left one actually comes from another, very similar suit of armor made only a couple of decades later. Everything else was part of the original armor, which is over four hundred years old.

Imagine

You are Sir George getting dressed to joust in a tournament in honor of the queen. As you get on your horse and ready your lance, what do you think before you charge?

Design

A monogram is a design based on a person's initials, like the double Es on this suit of armor. Design a fancy monogram for yourself.



Metal in Motion



Gallery 379
Arms and Armor of Islamic Cultures

Super Samurai



Gallery 377
Japanese Arms and Armor

Super Samurai

Look

Come face to face with a fierce dragon! A mighty Japanese warlord owned this armor. He was powerful, overseeing many samurai warriors, meaning “those who serve.” Look up at the golden, winged dragon on the helmet. Look again: Can you spot a second dragon?

Imagine

Samurai armor protected a warrior from head to toe. What parts of this armor are still used today in sports or other activities? What do you wear to protect your body, and when?

Did You Know?

This full suit of armor is made of many small pieces of lacquered metal, connected by silk laces and cords, making it flexible and easy for the samurai to wear in battle.

Pose

Take the pose of the samurai and try to imitate the face you see on the helmet. Ask a friend or family member to pretend they are encountering you for the first time. How would they react?

Metal in Motion

Look

Unlike the shirts nearby made mostly of small and large metal rings that are linked together, this full armor also includes many metal plates of different sizes. The plates added strength and protection while keeping the armor flexible. What patterns do you notice created by shapes, colors, and decorations on this armor?

Imagine

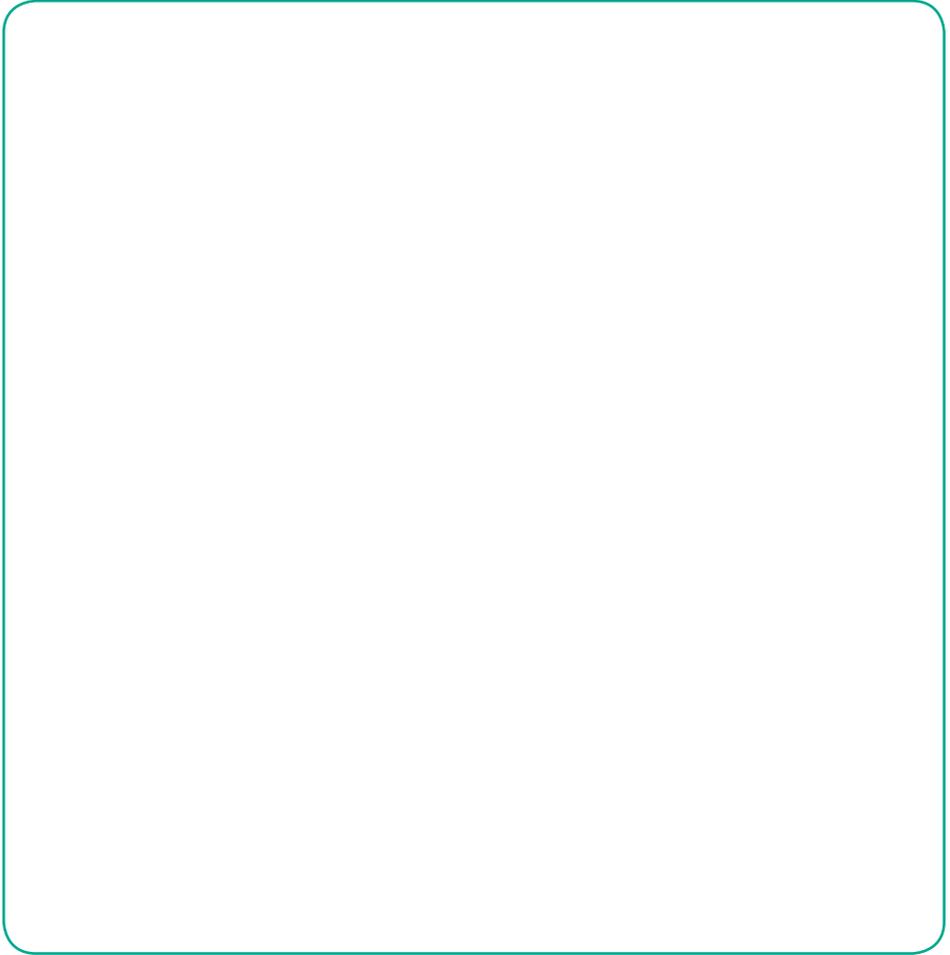
An Indian warrior wearing this helmet and leg guards rides his horse into battle. What might you hear? What do you think the warriors would shout as they charged into battle? What kinds of sounds would their horses make?

Create

At home, construct your own fierce and flexible chestplate using everyday materials like paper clips and metal foil. Link pieces of foil together with the paper clips. Then, add designs to your armor by drawing on the foil.

Draw

Design your own complete armor inspired by the ones you saw in the galleries!



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Cover: Illustration by Rebecca Clarke based on **Folio from an Album of Tournaments and Parades in Nuremberg** (detail), late 16th–mid-17th century; Germany. Nuremberg; pen and ink, watercolor, gold and silver washes; paper bound in gold-tooled leather; Rogers Fund, 1922 (22.229)

Inside (left to right, top to bottom): **Armor of Henry II, King of France (reigned 1547–59)**, about 1555; France; steel, gold, silver, leather, textile; Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1939 (39.121a–n). **Armor of Infante Luis, Prince of Asturias**, dated 1712; France; steel, gold, brass, silk,

cotton, metallic yarn, paper; Purchase, Armand Hammer, Occidental Petroleum Corporation Gift, 1989 (1989.3). **Armor of George Clifford, Third Earl of Cumberland**, 1586; made under the direction of Jacob Halder (British, master armorer at royal workshops at Greenwich, documented in England 1558–1608); Britain; steel, gold, leather, textile; Munsey Fund, 1932 (32.130.6). **Mail and Plate Shirt of Emperor Shah Jahan (reigned 1626–58)**, dated 1632–33; India and Iran; steel, iron, gold, leather; Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Gift, 2008 (2008.245). **Armor of Mail and Plate**, late 18th–first half of the 19th century; India, Sind (now Pakistan); steel, iron, copper alloy, textile; Bequest of George C. Stone, 1935 (36.25.11a–g). **Armor (gusoku type)**, Edo period, 16th and 18th centuries; Japan; helmet bowl signed Saotome Iyetada (Japanese, early–mid-19th century); breastplate inscribed inside, Myochin Munesuke (Japanese, 1688–1735); iron, lacquer, silk, gilt copper; Gift of Bashford Dean, 1914 (14.100.172; 14.100.527–528).